

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

[0025] FIG. 4 is a [partial] cross sectional view of an alternate embodiment of the blower outlet and nozzle taken along the line 4-4 of FIG. 1.

Please amend paragraph [0032] with the following amended paragraph:

[0032] ~~As best shown in FIG. 4, in~~ In the preferred embodiment, lower wall 52 includes a generally planar interior surface 78 that is adapted to be generally aligned with the lower interior surface 82 of the outlet 24 when the nozzle 30 is connected to outlet 24.

Please amend paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] With reference again to FIGS. 2 and [4] 3, the upper wall 50 is adapted to include a sloped region 90 that extends along a portion of the length, L, of the nozzle body 38. Sloped region 90 acts to gradually decrease the height of channel 60 from the inlet end 42 toward the outlet end 46 to thereby provide a nozzle restriction. In the preferred embodiment, the channel 60 therefore has a maximum height, H_1 , near the inlet end 42 and a minimum height, H_2 , at the outlet end 46. In the preferred embodiment, H_2 is approximately from 50% to 75% of H_1 .

Please amend paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] In the preferred embodiment, the shape of the nozzle body 38 and hence channel 60 utilizes the faster moving air in the lower (most radial distant) sections of the shroud 20 to provide lateral movement of leaves and debris. The sloped region 90 directs the airflow downwardly to reduce eddy currents as the air passes through outlet end 46. Arrows 94 in FIG. [4] 2 illustrate the airflow in the upper region 98 of nozzle 30, while arrows 100 illustrate the

airflow in lower region 102 of nozzle 30. "Upper region 98" and "lower region 102" signify zones separated by an imaginary plane drawn through a point midway between the upper wall 50 and lower wall 52 at the inlet end 42 and generally parallel to interior surface 78. The nozzle restriction provided by sloped region 90 increases the air velocity in the upper region 98 through the nozzle 30 as compared to the airflow in the upper region 104 of outlet 24. The airflow through the lower region 102 of nozzle 30 remains generally constant with the airflow through the lower region 106 of outlet 24.

Please amend paragraph [0038] with the following amended paragraph:

[0038] As further illustrated in FIG. [4] 2, the airflow in outlet 24 is generally unidirectional. As the airflow enters nozzle 30, the direction of the airflow in the lower region 102 remains constant while the direction of the airflow in the upper region 98 changes due to the presence of sloped region 90.